

understand other cultures, but remained convinced that America is the greatest nation the world has ever known.

Seeing how much government impacted our lives, my mother served as the treasurer for a friend from church who ran for the Minnesota House of Representatives and won. She worked endlessly for his campaign and regularly marshaled the family for lit drops. As her children left the nest, she spent an increasing amount of time volunteering for the Republican Party and its candidates. We attended our first party conventions for the 1978 election, a watershed year for Minnesota Republicans. She was selected as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in New York City in 2004. I will always cherish the time I was able to spend with my mother and father during that convention.

There is so much more that I could share about how big of an impact my mother has had on my life and countless others. She has worked selflessly throughout her life for others, volunteering for church, 4-H, Party or community activities, driving others to the hospital or clinic, never asking anything in return. She is devoted to her seven children and twenty-seven grandchildren and regularly visits their school events.

I suppose every child has a special moment with their parent that they will always remember. Mine is talking with my mother when I was having trouble fitting in at school during my youth. She sat down beside me and shared the story of her own life and how at a young age she came to the conclusion that she was no better than anyone else, but that no one else was better than her. That understanding of the inherent equality of worth of all individuals served to help her confidence and mine.

Although I fervently believe in the equality of all people, any honest appraisal would have to agree that the impact my mother has had on this earth during her first 75 years has truly been exceptional. May her positive influence extend for decades to come.

HONORING THE VISIT OF TAIWANESE PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the citizens of Taiwan and to welcome their democratically elected President, Chen Shui-bian, to the United States of America.

As you know, Taiwan has been a friend and stalwart ally of the United States for over 50 years. Together we have opposed communism and supported the principles of freedom and democracy. Our nations have worked together to fight terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, poverty in Africa and adversity worldwide.

Through this relationship, our countries have seen strengthened political and economic ties leading to mutual prosperity. Today, Taiwan is our nation's eighth largest trading partner and a valuable advocate for free trade and democracy in the Asian Pacific region and beyond. Strengthening the relationship and expanding

cooperation between the United States and the Republic of China in Taiwan should remain a national priority.

Mr. Speaker, because of President Chen Shui-bian's continued dedication to the American-Taiwanese alliance, I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his visit to the United States.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 27

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1701, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to improve the reclamation of abandoned mines, and S. 961, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to reauthorize and reform the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program.

SD-366

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing progress in the Federal government regarding alternative personnel systems, focusing on systems to learn where personnel systems have been successfully employed and what steps have been taken in their development to ensure effective implementation and operation.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine housing-related programs for the poor, focusing on existing challenges in measuring improper rent subsidy payments in housing assistance programs at HUD, as well as Federal oversight of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the role of science in environmental policy making.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine issues relating to recovering from Hurricane Katrina, focusing on the needs of those displaced, today and tomorrow.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine S. 1334, to provide for integrity and accountability in professional sports, and S. 1114, to establish minimum drug testing standards for major professional sports leagues.

SH-216

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine whether there is more consolidation or new choices for consumers regarding video competition in 2005.

SD-226

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the grazing programs of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, including proposed changes to grazing regulations, and the status of grazing permit renewals, monitoring programs and allotment restocking plans.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian housing.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 29

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the effectiveness and cost of the Defense Travel System of the Department of Defense.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine communications for first responders in disaster.

SD-562

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine proposed Duck Valley Reservation, Shoshone Paiute Tribes, Water Rights Settlement.

SR-485

3:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing regarding the evolving NATO role in Afghanistan.

S-407, Capitol

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. military strategy and operations in Iraq.

SD-106